

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COPENH 02674 051659Z  
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 H-01 L-01  
PM-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /035 W  
-----060922Z 019416 /13  
R 051620Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4418  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2674

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, MPOL, US, DA  
SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON CIRCUMSTANCES AROUND SIGNING  
F-16 LOA

REF: COPENHAGEN 2626

1. DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER SIGNED F-16 LETTER  
OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE MAY 4 (REFTEL). THAT SAME  
EVENING, I CALLED ON HIM TO REVIEW IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE  
THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS. MOLLER SAID THAT HE HAD SIGNED  
THE LOA WITHOUT EXPRESSING FORMAL RESERVATIONS BECAUSE DANISH  
LAWYERS HAD CONVINCED HIM THAT SUCH RESERVATIONS WOULD NOT REALLY  
CARRY MUCH LEGAL WEIGHT. FURTHERMORE, HE THOUGHT THAT FUTURE  
PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE IN F-16 PRODUCTION COULD HAVE  
POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IN DENMARK. MOLLER, CONSEQUENTLY,  
JUDGET IT MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
TO BE AWARE OF THIS POSSIBILITY THAN RAISE FUTILE  
LEGAL RESERVATIONS. HE IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERING  
WIRTING AN INFORMAL LETTER TO HIS AMERICAN COLLEAGUE  
SETTING FORTH SOME OF HIS VIEWS.

2. MOLLER SAID THAT HE IS KNOWN WITHIN DANISH  
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POLITICAL CIRCLES AS A DEFENDER OF NATO ((TRUE), A FRIEND  
OF THE U.S. (TRUE), AND THAT IF THE F-16 PROJECT RUNS  
INTO TROUBLE IN DENMARK HIS OWN POLITICAL CAREER IS  
IN TROUBLE (TRUE). HE TRUSTS THAT THE SECRETARY OF  
DEFENSE UNDERSTANDS THAT.

3. MOLLER REITERATED THAT THE F-16 PROJECT IS A

COOPERATIVE VENTURE BETWEEN EQUAL PARTNERS, AND HE SAID CANDIDLY THAT HE FELT AT TIMES THAT THE EUROPEANS WERE NOT TREATED THAT WAY BY THE USG. THE F-16 PROGRAM SEEMED TO BE HANDLED BY THE USG MORE AS A MILITARY SALES PROJECT RATHER THAN CO-PRODUCTION VENTURE. HE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THIS PROJECT SUCCEED BECAUSE IT IS PROBABLY THE ONLY "REASONABLE" ROAD FOR NATO COUNTRIES TO ACQUIRE EXPENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN THE FUTURE.

4. MOLLER HOPES THAT THE US CONGRESS WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY FUNDS SO THAT THE F-16 PROJECT CAN BE CARRIED OUT BY THE AMERICAN SIDE AS PROJECTED IN THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT. OTHERWISE THE PRICE OF THE INDIVIDUAL PLANES WOULD GO UP AND THIS WOULD CAUSE MOLLER, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE DEFENDED THE F-16 PROJECT AND CLOSE MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE US SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT BY DENMARK SHOWING GOOD FAITH IN SIGNING LOA WITHOUT RESERVATIONS, DENMARK'S PARTNERS WILL SHOW UNDERSTANDING FOR HER NEED TO GET A FAIR SHARE OF THE OFFSET CONTRACTS. IN THIS CONNECTION HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT IF THIRD COUNTRY SALES MATERIALIZE, DENMARK AND NORWAY MIGHT GET A LARGER SHARE OF THE OFFSET CONTRACTS THAN BELGIUM AND HOLLAND. HE WAS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED OVER THE EXISTING LAW RESTRICTING DENMARK FROM EXPORTING WEAPONS TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HE OPINED WAYS COULD BE FOUND TO "GET AROUND THIS RESTRICTION".  
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5. FINALLY, AS A SIGN OF DENMARK'S POSITIVE APPROACH TO COOPERATION WITH NATO AND THE US IN PARTICULAR, HE AID THAT HE HAS INSTRUCTED HIS EXPERTS TO REQUEST A NEW STUDY OF WHAT IT WOULD COST DENMARK TO JOIN A NEW NATO AEW SYSTEM.

6. ALL IN ALL, I FOUND ORLA MOLLER RELAXED AFTER HAVING SOMETHING OF A CASE OF NERVES BEFORE SIGNING THE LOA.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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